

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1934

Introduced by Assembly Member Alejo

February 19, 2014

An act to amend Sections 10003, 10005, 10010, 10013, 10014, and 10015 of, ~~and to repeal Section 10009 of,~~ the Corporations Code, relating to corporations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1934, as amended, Alejo. Nonprofit corporations: corporation sole.

(1) The Nonprofit Corporation Law authorizes a presiding officer of a religious denomination, society, or church to form a corporation sole for the purpose of administering and managing its affairs. The law requires the Secretary of State to file articles of incorporation of a corporation sole, if the articles of incorporation conform to law.

This bill would require the Secretary of State, if he or she determines the articles of incorporation to form a corporation sole did not conform to law, to nonetheless file it if the articles of incorporation are resubmitted with an accompanying written opinion of a member of the State Bar of California that the specific provision of the articles of incorporation objected to by the Secretary of State conform to law and *a the* supporting points and authorities upon which the written opinion is based.

~~(2) The Nonprofit Corporation Law authorizes a judge of the superior court in the county in which a corporation sole has its principal office to, at all times, have access to the books of the corporation sole.~~

~~This bill would repeal that authorization.~~

(3)

(2) The Nonprofit Corporation Law authorizes a chief officer of a corporation sole to amend the articles of incorporation if the amendment is filed with the Secretary of State and includes a signed and verified statement setting forth the provisions of the amendment and stating that the amendment has been duly authorized by the religious organization governed by the corporation sole.

This bill would expand this provision to also allow an amendment filed with the Secretary of State to state it has been duly approved by the hierarchical religious organization or entity responsible for forming the corporation sole, or by the hierarchical religious organization or entity responsible for overseeing the corporation sole according to the rules, canons, regulations, or discipline of the religious denomination, society, or church as to which the corporation sole is affiliated.

(4)

(3) The Nonprofit Corporation Law requires a declaration of dissolution of a corporation sole to include, among other things, a statement that the dissolution of the corporation sole has been duly authorized by the religious organization governed by the corporation sole.

This bill would expand that provision to also allow the statement that the dissolution of the corporation sole has been duly authorized by the hierarchical religious organization or entity responsible for forming the corporation sole, or by the hierarchical religious organization or entity responsible for overseeing the corporation sole according to the rules, canons, regulations, or discipline of the religious denomination, society, or church as to which the corporation sole is affiliated.

(5)

(4) The Nonprofit Corporation Law requires any assets of a dissolved corporation sole remaining after satisfying its debts and obligations to be transferred to the religious organization governed by the corporation sole, or to trustees in its behalf, or disposed of as may be decreed by the superior court of the county in which the dissolved corporation sole had its principal office.

This bill would expand this provision to authorize the assets to also be transferred to the hierarchical religious organization or entity responsible for forming the corporation sole, or the hierarchical religious organization or entity responsible for overseeing the corporation sole according to the rules, canons, regulations, or discipline of the religious

denomination, society, or church to which the corporation sole is affiliated.

(6)

(5) This bill would also make technical, nonsubstantive changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 10003 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:

10003. The articles of incorporation shall state:

(a) The name of the corporation.

(b) That the officer forming the corporation is duly authorized by the canons, rules, regulations, or discipline of the religious denomination, society, or church to take such action.

(c) The county where the principal office for the transaction of the business of the corporation is located.

(d) The manner in which any vacancy occurring in the office of the bishop, chief priest, presiding elder, or other presiding officer is required to be filled by the canons, rules, regulations, or constitution of the denomination, society, or church.

SEC. 2. Section 10005 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:

10005. (a) The articles of incorporation shall be signed and verified by the bishop, chief priest, presiding elder, or other presiding officer forming the corporation and shall be submitted to the Secretary of State for filing in his or her office. If they conform to law, the Secretary of State shall file them and endorse the date of filing thereon. Upon the filing of the articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State, the corporation sole is formed.

(b) If the Secretary of State determines that articles of incorporation submitted for filing pursuant to this section do not conform to law and returns it to the person submitting it, the articles of incorporation may be resubmitted accompanied by a written opinion of the member of the State Bar of California submitting the articles, or representing the person submitting it, to the effect that the specific provision of the articles of incorporation objected to by the Secretary of State does conform to law and stating the

1 points and authorities upon which the written opinion is based.
2 The Secretary of State shall rely, with respect to any disputed point
3 of law, upon that written opinion in determining whether the
4 articles conform to law. The date of filing in that case shall be the
5 date the Secretary of State receives the articles of incorporation
6 on resubmission.

7 ~~SEC. 3.—Section 10009 of the Corporations Code is repealed.~~

8 ~~SEC. 4.~~

9 *SEC. 3.* Section 10010 of the Corporations Code is amended
10 to read:

11 10010. The chief officer of a corporation sole may at any time
12 amend the articles of incorporation of the corporation sole changing
13 its name, the term of its existence, its territorial jurisdiction, or the
14 manner of filling any vacancy in the office thereof, and may by
15 amended articles of incorporation make provision for any act or
16 thing for which provision is authorized in original articles of
17 incorporation of corporation sole.

18 The chief officer of the corporation sole shall sign and verify a
19 statement setting forth the provisions of the amendment and stating
20 that it has been duly authorized by the religious organization
21 governed by the corporation sole, the hierarchical religious
22 organization or entity responsible for forming the corporation sole,
23 or by the hierarchical religious organization or entity responsible
24 for overseeing the corporation sole according to the rules, canons,
25 regulations, or discipline of the religious denomination, society,
26 or church as to which the corporation sole is affiliated.

27 The amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary of State for
28 filing. If it conforms to law, the Secretary of State shall file it and
29 endorse the date of filing thereon. Thereupon the articles are
30 amended in the manner set forth in the statement.

31 ~~SEC. 5.~~

32 *SEC. 4.* Section 10013 of the Corporations Code is amended
33 to read:

34 10013. The declaration of dissolution shall set forth all of the
35 following:

- 36 (a) The name of the corporation sole.
37 (b) The reason for its dissolution or winding up.
38 (c) That dissolution of the corporation sole has been duly
39 authorized by the religious organization governed by the
40 corporation sole, by the hierarchical religious organization or entity

1 responsible for forming the corporation sole, or by the hierarchical
2 religious organization or entity responsible for overseeing the
3 corporation sole according to the rules, canons, regulations, or
4 discipline of the religious denomination, society, or church as to
5 which the corporation sole is affiliated.

6 (d) The names and addresses of the persons who are to supervise
7 the winding up of the affairs of the *corporation* sole.

8 ~~SEC. 6.~~

9 *SEC. 5.* Section 10014 of the Corporations Code is amended
10 to read:

11 10014. The declaration of dissolution shall be submitted to the
12 Secretary of State for filing. If it conforms to law, the Secretary
13 of State shall file it and endorse the date of filing thereon.
14 Thereupon, the corporation sole shall cease to carry on business,
15 except for the purpose of adjusting and winding up its affairs.

16 ~~SEC. 7.~~

17 *SEC. 6.* Section 10015 of the Corporations Code is amended
18 to read:

19 10015. After the debts and obligations of the corporation sole
20 are paid or adequately provided for, any assets remaining shall be
21 transferred to the religious organization governed by the
22 corporation sole, the trustees on behalf of the corporation sole, the
23 hierarchical religious organization or entity responsible for forming
24 the corporation sole, or the hierarchical religious organization or
25 entity responsible for overseeing the corporation sole according
26 to the rules, canons, regulations, or discipline of the religious
27 denomination, society, or church to which the corporation sole is
28 affiliated, or otherwise disposed of as may be decreed by the
29 superior court of the county in which the dissolved corporation
30 sole had its principal office upon petition therefor by the Attorney
31 General or any person connected with the organization.